

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 7-9 are currently pending in the subject application, and are presently under consideration. Claims 1, 3, 7 and 9 are rejected. Claims 2 and 8 have been indicated as allowable. Claims 4-6 and 10-12 have been withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to a non-elected species. Claims 1, 3-7 and 9-12 have been amended. Favorable reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments and comments herein.

I. Rejoinder of Claims 4-6 and 1-12

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to include the elements of allowable claims 2 and 8, respectively. Therefore, claim 1 is generic to claims 4-6 and claim 7 is generic to claims 10-12. Rejoinder of claims 4-6 and 10-12 under 37 CFR §1.141 is respectfully requested.

II. Specification

The specification has been amended to correct the informalities stated in the Office Action. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

III. Objection to Claims 1, 3 and 7

Claims 1, 3 and 7 are objected to because of informalities. Claims 1, 3 and 7 have been amended to correct these informalities. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 1, 3 and 7 is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 7 and 9 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 3, 7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,832,006 to Rice, et al. ("Rice").

Claim 1 and claim 7 have been amended to include the subject matter of claims 2 and 8, respectively. Claims 2 and 8 have been indicated as allowable of the cited art. Therefore, amended claim 1 and 7 are now allowable. Claims 3 and 9 depend from allowable claims 1 and 7, respectively. Therefore, claims 3 and 9 are now allowable over the cited art.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3, 7 and 9 is respectfully requested.


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and that the application be passed to issue.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

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